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08/22/2013 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP
AUGUST 22, 2013 MEETING
Approved Sept., 2013

SUSTAINABLE ARLINGTON
Town Hall Annex. First Floor

In attendance: Rick Cutler, Deanne Dupont, David Haas, Elizabeth Karpati, David Landskov, Gail McCormick, Janice Pare, Scott Samenfeld, Guest: Ted Fields, Arlington Economic Planner.

Facilitator: David Haas **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

- The minutes of the June 18 meeting were accepted as presented.
- Most of the meeting was taken up by a discussion with Mr. Fields. He wants to bring sustainable development to Arlington – more commercial development, more employment opportunities in the town, creative and artistic activities, “content creation.” – and attract more 20 to 30 year olds. Following are some points raised.
- Allow higher buildings along Mass. Ave., with businesses on the first floor and residences above. May need zoning changes.
- Enable sidewalk dining or rooftop dining for restaurants.
- Promote walkability – make walking safer, repair sidewalks.
- Shuttle in Arlington Heights to connect hilly residential streets to business areas.
- Mr. Fields asked about our main goals. By now these must include not only fighting climate change but also finding ways to adapt to change that has become inevitable. This must be included in all planning. Climate change is driven by the prevailing model of striving for constant growth. We need to change attitudes and adopt a “steady-state” model where we recognize that there are limits and re-use resources as much as possible. “Preach to the congregation, not just the choir.”
- Town Day plans by other Vision 2020 groups already include displays of invasive plants and good plants with which to replace them. SA should promote “Reduce, reuse, repurpose, recycle” and provide information about what these terms mean, e.g. “reuse” vs. “repurpose.” Town Day would also be a good opportunity for advertising the next EcoFest.
- Next meeting to be scheduled before Town Day, which is Sept, 21.

(Notes by Gail M.)

Sustainable Arlington Meeting minutes

Thursday, August 22nd, 7:30-9:00pm

Town Hall Annex, 1st Floor Conference Room

Attendees: Dave Haas, Scot Samenfeld, David Landskov, Ted Fields, Janice Pare, Gail McCormick, DeAnne Dupont, Charlotte Milan, Richard Cutler, Elizabeth Karpati

~~~~~ New attendees were introduced

~~~~~ Previous minutes were approved

~~~~~ Ted Fields, Town Economic Development Manager told us about some of what he's working on and wanted to know more about Sustainable Arlington

~~~~~ There were no reports from the Energy Working group, Outreach/Website Committee, and MCAN representative since those members were absent

~~~~~ Discussion of the Soak Up The Rain project will be elaborated on at the next meeting

~~~~~ We were reminded that our participation in a True Story Theater performance would take place in October

~~~~~ Announcements included a rally in Hyannis after the anti-coal/pro renewable energy march from Somerset to the Cape

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